



The  
THE FAMILY LAW SECTION  
respectfully submits the following position on:

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**HB 5699**

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The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan itself, but rather a Section which members of the State Bar choose voluntarily to join, based on common professional interest.

The position expressed is that of the Family Law Section only and is not the position of the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar of Michigan does not have a position on this matter.

The total membership of the Family Law Section is 2,585.

The position was adopted after review and vote by members elected to the Family Law Section's Council. The number of members in the decision-making body is 21. The number who voted in favor to this position was 10. The number who voted opposed to this position was 3.



## Report on Public Policy Position

**Name of Section:**

Family Law Section

**Contact Person:**

Kent Weichmann

**Email:**

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**Bill Number:**

HB 5699 (Kooiman) Family law; marriage and divorce; prerequisites for issuance of a marriage license; require premarriage program or longer waiting period. Amends title & secs. 2, 3 & 3a of 1887 PA 128 (MCL 551.102 et seq.) & adds secs. 2a & 2b. TIE BAR WITH: HB 5700'06, HB 5702'06, HB 5703'06

**Date position was adopted:**

March 4, 2006

**Process used to take the ideological position:**

Vote of Council members present at Council

**Number of members in the decision-making body:**

21

**Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:**

10-3, 1 abstention

**FOR SECTIONS ONLY:**

This subject matter of this position is within the jurisdiction of the section.

The position was adopted in accordance with the Section's bylaws.

The requirements of SBM Bylaw Article VIII have been satisfied.

If the boxes above are checked, SBM will notify the Section when this notice is received, at which time the Section may advocate the position.

**Position:**

HB 5699 allows couples to avoid the three-day wait between marriage license application and issuance by taking a four-hour premarital education program. This premarital education program includes topics designed to prepare couples for marriage. The Council supports this strategy. The Council opposed the provision in the bill that would require the marriage license itself to record whether the couple participated in premarital education. We felt that reflecting the counseling (or not) in the license application was sufficient for any statistical tracking that may be undertaken. The Council supported this bill with that amendment.